

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to investigate the causes of excessive blindness among children

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) the number of such cases detected during the last three years State wise and Union Territory wise and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D K THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had conducted a collaborative study on blindness in 1971-74 in 7 different centres representing 7 different regions of the country for children less than 7 of age. Their findings are as under

Persons covered	81 100
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Blind persons	61
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Prevalence rate per 1000 population	0.75
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(c) State/UT wise figures are not available

(d) As per expert advice severe Vitamin A deficiency being an important cause of blindness among small children a programme of prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency among children was started. Under this programme intensive doses of Vitamin A (2000 international units) in oil are given to children in age group 1-5 years at six month intervals. In addition Health Education is also given to prevent blindness from other causes such as accidents injuries infection etc.

Additional Bogies to Visakhapatnam-Kirandul Train

5428 SHRI MANKURAM SODHI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a demand to increase the speed and provide additional bogies to Visakhapatnam Kirandul (Bailadila) passenger train and

(b) if so the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL LIKARJUN) (a) Yes Sir

(b) Examined but not found operationally feasible and commercially justified

Grant for Purchase of Hindi Books

5429 DR LAXMINARAYAN PAN DEY

SHRIPHOOL CHAND VERMA SHRI B L SHARMA PREM

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Assam have requested for grant for the purchase of Hindi books for school libraries

(b) if so the details thereof and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) (a) There is no scheme under which grant could be sanctioned to State Govts for purchase of Hindi books for school libraries

(b) and (c) Does not arise